

REMARKS

By this paper, FIG. 22b has been amended. As such, it is believed that the examined claims define patentable subject matter. Claims 1-32 remain pending.

The undersigned wishes to thank the Examiner for participating in an interview on June 17, 2004. During the June 17th interview, the rejection of the claims under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as well as the objection to drawing FIG. 22b was discussed. We hereby traverse the rejection to the claims and objection to the drawings. Accordingly, Applicants have submitted herewith a new sheet including FIG. 22b which depicts subject matter that is commensurate with originally filed FIG. 22b. In view of the same, it is believed that the objection to the drawings is thereby traversed.

In response to the rejection of claims 16-20 and 23 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by, or alternatively as being obvious over Edoga (5,746,766), it is respectfully submitted that the cited reference does not teach the bulbous tails recited in the claims and as now clearly depicted in amended FIG. 22b. That is, the Edoga patent does not teach flattened bulbous tails but rather merely teaches apices defined by looped structure. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that each of claims 16-20 and 23 define patentable subject matter.

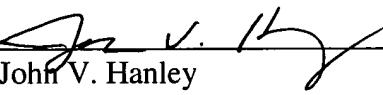
CONCLUSION

Applicants have attempted to completely respond to the rejections set forth in the outstanding Office action. In view of the above amendments and remarks, Applicant respectfully request that the application be reconsidered, the claims allowed and the application passed to issue.

Respectfully submitted,

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